

Message Text

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42

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 OES-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AGR-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 IGA-01

COME-00 FEAE-00 /076 W

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R 031240Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9358

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, PFOR, SU, US

SUBJECT: NIMEIRI REMARKS AT FOOD SYMPOSIUM

1. PRESIDENT NIMEIRI OPENED QUOTE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON WORLD FOOD CRISIS UNQUOTE FEB. 1 WITH SPEECH CHARACTERIZED BY OPEN OR IMPLIED CHARGES OF US FAILURE TO ASSIST THIRD WORLD THROUGH CURRENT FOOD CRISIS DESPITE ITS POSITION AS QUOTE MAJOR POWER AND LEADING GRANARY UNQUOTE. RICH INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES WERE CRITICIZED FOR ALLEGEDLY ALLOWING MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS TO INDULGE IN PRACTICES RESULTING IN GRAIN SHORT-AGES, AND NIMEIRI WARNED WESTERN NATIONS TO RENOUNCE QUOTE WASTEFULLY PROSPEROUS LIVING UNQUOTE FOR NEW RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN WORLD REGIONS. HE ALSO INTIMATED THAT DIPLOMACY, QUOTE QUIET OR UNQUIET UNQUOTE, WILL NOT SUCCEED IN SEPARATING ISSUE OF OIL SUPPLY AND PRICES FROM MIDDLE EAST QUESTION AND NEED FOR MODERATION BY ISRAELIS. NIMEIRI ALSO EXPRESSED TOTAL DISAPPOINTMENT WITH ROME WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE, A QUOTE BATTLE OF WITS BETWEEN THE AFFLUENT UNQUOTE THAT FAILED TO DEAL WITH CURRENT STARVATION IN POOR NATIONS. HE WENT OUT OF HIS WAY, HOWEVER, TO HEAP LAVISH PRAISE ON GISCARD D'ESTAING FOR HIS STAND ON ENERGY, THE MIDDLE EAST AND FOOD PROBLEMS.

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2. MINISTER OF EDUCATION MANSOUR KHALID (RECENTLY REMOVED

FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY) FOLLOWED WITH LOW-KEY DEFENSE OF ROME ACCOMPLISHMENTS BUT FOUND IT FIT TO REFER TO LESTER BROWN'S FINDINGS OF AMERICAN OVER-CONSUMPTION AND WASTEFULNESS.

3. COMMENT: DIPLOMATS HERE WERE STRUCK BY NIMEIRI'S BUMPTIOUS, ALMOST AGGRESSIVE TONE, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF FACT THAT AMERICANS OUTNUMBER PARTICIPANTS FROM ANY OTHER SINGLE COUNTRY. HIS CRITICISMS OF US AND OF ROME CONFERENCE MAY REFLECT NIMEIRI'S SELF-ASSERTIVE MOOD FOLLOWING LAST WEEK'S GOVERNMENT SHAKE-UP. BREWER

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